

In the Specification:

Page 13, lines 9-17, please replace same with the following paragraph:

Referring now to figures 8-15 there is illustrated a first improvement to the known type of scalpel blade assembly described above. This first improvement is directed to an improvement to the method of attachment of the blade assembly to the handle with reduced likelihood of a sharps incident. In the particular embodiment the improvement comprises a removable tab 60 which comprises a head portion 61 and a tail portion 62. Head portion 61 comprises a flat member which can be gripped between a person's fingers or which can be pushed against a hard surface. A downwardly extending lip 61a is formed at the rear of head portion 61. ~~Tail~~ One end of tail portion 62 is integrally formed with head portion 61 and is positioned to at least partially fill slot 17 in guard 11. The slot 17 is illustrated in figure 2. The other end of tail portion 62 is joined to the lower end of lip 61a as shown in figures 9, 12 and 13.